

years old to join the Marines, serving in the Vietnam war for 1 year and 11 months.

During his time in Vietnam, Sergeant Phillips survived two attacks but sustained life-changing injuries. He tearfully recalled losing most of his buddies when his unit came under gunfire while patrolling through a rice field. Sergeant Phillips woke up in the back of a medical vehicle with multiple injuries, including a severe blow to his left leg that required the removal of most of his calf. Decades later, he still has shrapnel in his hip, a painful reminder of the cost of freedom.

Sergeant Phillips says he doesn't regret his service because he hopes it will keep today's youth from facing the same hardship. He gives his time in the military credit for teaching him discipline and the sacred value of life.

Now, Sergeant Phillips takes pride in raising honeybees and growing fresh produce for the St. Clair County community. But he doesn't see himself as a hero—just a man who did what his country asked of him during a difficult point in history. His humility and devotion are an inspiration to us all.

The sacrifices made by our servicemembers are often overlooked or taken for granted by those of us who benefit from them. Even during the Korean war, often referred to as the "Forgotten War," there were men and women who willingly answered the call to serve—not for fame or recognition, but to keep our country safe from evil, like Sergeant Dave Jensen of Foley, who enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at 19 years old.

His job was to help assess aerial photography used for enemy surveillance. His first overseas assignment was in North Africa supporting those who flew along the Russian lines before doing stints in Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. After honorably discharging, Sergeant Jensen made another commendable decision to enter public education, teaching the art of woodworking and mechanics during his 30 years as a shop instructor. Sergeant Jensen is an example of someone who knew the importance of his role to the overall mission and honorably carried out his part.

These veterans—Chris Amacker, Eric Prewitt, Jeff Wishik, Janet Pray, George Hamilton, Lonnie Phillips, and Dave Jensen—are all heroes. Our country is safer because of their efforts, and Alabama's communities are better off because of their service and continued service. Their sacrifices—whether loss of mobility, time spent away from family, postwar trauma, or the most vibrant years of their youth—demonstrate America's strength to the world. President Ronald Reagan summed it up best when he said, "Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us."

I hope we will remember the price of freedom and those who have paid it. To

all of our veterans, thank you for your sacrifice and endeavors to ensure America remains the country of freedom and opportunity for generations to come.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING LORETTA LYNN

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, over the years, country music has evolved from its humble roots into a celebration of extremes. Most modern artists like to draw their listeners into one of two states: perfect happiness or pure agony. But country music's legacy lies somewhere in the middle, where life tests our mettle and deals both joy and sorrow, all too often in unequal measure. It is the realm of the courageously unlucky and the quietly brokenhearted and the source of the world's most complex and affecting storytelling. It is that world that Loretta Lynn invited us to experience from the time she was a young woman until the day she died.

Her resume is one of the most impressive in all entertainment: 46 solo studio albums, more than 50 Top Ten hits, member of the Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Famer, and the Country Music Association's first female Entertainer of the Year. But Loretta was much more than the sum of her accolades.

She grew up poor and uneducated in the coal-mining hills of Kentucky. She was a wife at 15, a mother at 16, and moved thousands of miles away from home at an age when most teenagers today would just start dreaming about escaping from their parents. When she wasn't busy raising her children, she sang and played songs on a \$17 Sears guitar.

If Nashville is a 10-year town, then I suppose Loretta Lynn must have considered herself lucky at last, she only had to wait 7 months from the time of her first record pressing to the moment she first stepped onstage at the Grand Ole Opry. Still, at 28, she had seen more than enough to know that there was no hiding in a spotlight, so she sang about her life and found a voice that was once assertive and disruptive. She blazed trails in music and television by being herself, using humor to blunt the edge that hard living and having little agency well into womanhood had given her writing.

On October 4 of this year, we lost our coal miner's daughter to a far better place. I will be forever grateful to her for her absolute belief in the power of storytelling. I hope her memory will inspire future generations of young women in music to do the bravest thing an artist can do and share their joy, pain, confusion, and hope in its most authentic form.●

##### TRIBUTE TO RUTH SKIDMORE

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Mr. HAGERTY, I

ask unanimous consent that the following remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor Ms. Ruth Skidmore of Oak Ridge, TN.

By the end of the Second World War, there were almost 30,000 Army nurses on Active Duty. These brave healers served on the home front and across oceans, caring for the wounded, and bringing hope to thousands of American and Allied servicemembers.

On November 2, 1943, a young lady named Ruth Skidmore joined their ranks and helped guide her compatriots on the frontlines through one of the darkest and most violent periods in American history. On October 13, 2022, Ruth celebrated her 100th birthday, and it felt appropriate that we should in turn celebrate not only her service to this country but her enduring legacy of service to her community.

Ruth Skidmore was born 100 years ago in Fort Wayne, IN, the sixth of seven children. She held an afterschool job at the one-room schoolhouse across the street from her home, cleaning chalkboards and erasers for 10 cents a day. Following her father's advice, Ruth deposited her earnings in a savings account—a responsible decision indeed. Unfortunately, she lost all \$13 of her savings in the crash of '29.

To this day, Ruth is still mad at Herbert Hoover.

She is a graduate of Hanover College, where she was crowned May Queen in her senior year. After college, Ruth contracted an eye infection and moved in with her uncle, who was an Army doctor. He suggested that she move to Arizona, believing that the dry air would aid in her healing. As it turns out, this piece of advice would change the course of Ruth's life. She moved to Tucson and signed up for Army Cadet School. The war was on, and everyone had a role to play. After the war Ruth moved to Oak Ridge, TN; after a short stint in Fort Lauderdale, FL, she returned to the Volunteer State to work as an industrial nurse at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Over the years Ruth took on the duties of a wife and a mother, but she never stopped serving her community. While raising her family, Ruth worked part-time as a nurse and especially enjoyed her 2 years working in Appalachia.

Today, Ruth lives in Oak Ridge, where she indulges her green thumb and a love of music. She has always had a large garden and, as she puts it, was growing organic vegetables before it was cool. At the age of 60, Ruth threw herself into music lessons and developed no small talent on both the guitar and the piano. She regularly dazzles her friends and neighbors as part of a veterans' band.

Ruth, what a life you have lived. On behalf of all Tennesseans and our colleagues in the U.S. Senate, we wish you a very happy birthday and as much joy and love as one person could hope for in the coming year.●

# RECOGNIZING KAPPA SIGMA UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS CHAPTER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark 132 years of Kappa Sigma fraternity on the campus of the University of Arkansas and 100 years calling 711 W. Dickson Street its home. I join with so many other former and current members of the storied Xi Chapter in celebrating its tremendous legacy of brotherhood, academic achievement, and service.

The Kappa Sigma Xi Chapter was established in 1890 and is the largest fraternity on campus. The chapter is also the largest in the country, with over 4,000 initiates all-time and 335 undergraduates currently. It features prominent alumni, including notable figures such as Jerry Jones and former public servants who have served their communities, the State of Arkansas, and our country.

I am fortunate to be among several Kappa Sigma brothers to represent the people of Arkansas in the U.S. Congress. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of William S. Goodwin of Warren, John McClellan from Sheridan, William Alexander from Osceola, and Ed Bethune of Little Rock, as well as Samuel B. Hill from Franklin who went on to serve the people of Washington State. Our time in the Xi Chapter undoubtedly shaped our desire to serve as leaders and give back through public service.

Being part of this organization is also a family affair, as my great uncle and cousin were members of Kappa Sigma's Xi Chapter. I know families throughout Arkansas have similar stories, which speaks to the broad and generational impact it continues to have in the natural State.

As former Senator and Republican Presidential nominee Bob Dole once expressed, being involved with Kappa Sigma offers a great deal of learning experience and the opportunity to make lifelong friends.

I am pleased and honored to help celebrate this milestone with other Kappa Sigma brothers and the city of Fayetteville. Reflecting on the history and tradition of this special brotherhood is just one way to carry on its mission.

Along with the University of Arkansas Greek Life community, and specifically to the Xi Chapter of Kappa Sigma, we applaud the longevity and life-changing work the fraternity continues to demonstrate.

Congratulations, again, to all those associated with this institution and who are connected through the bond it has established for well over a century.●

## TRIBUTE TO DAN AND SANDI DAVIS

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I honor and pay tribute to Dan and Sandi Davis. The Davis' have selflessly dedicated more than 40 years of their

life to ministry through the United Pentecostal Church. In October of 2022, the Davis' celebrate 20 years of pastoral stewardship at First Pentecostal Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

Dan and Sandi met while attending college at Jackson College of Ministries, in Jackson, MS, and married in 1977. Pastor Davis became a licensed minister by the United Pentecostal Church International in 1976 and served in a number of ministerial positions at churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Michigan.

In 1989, the Davis' moved their family to Jena, LA, to lead the Shady Grove United Pentecostal Church. In 2002, after 13 years at Shady Grove, Dan and Sandi moved to Baton Rouge to begin their ministry at First Pentecostal Church of Baton Rouge. There, they have since faithfully served the congregation of First Pentecostal Church and the Baton Rouge community.

I met Dan when I was running for my first political office. He didn't know me from Adam. But from the get-go he was encouraging me, as he encourages everyone. I met Sandi through Dan and through them met others such as Bishop Tenney and his "Tennyisms." We have had great conversations regarding music and life. They regularly send notes, text messages, and messages through others to pick up my spirits. They do this for me; they do it for everyone. It is the ministry they have had for 40 years.

Joining the First Pentecostal celebrating these 40 years of ministry are Dan and Sandi's two daughters, Mandi Davis Hartzell and Heather Davis Dean; two sons-in-law, Ryan Hartzell and Chantry Dean; and three grandchildren; Ava Dean, Aidan Hartzell, and Zane Hartzell.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to commemorate the Davis' 20 years of ministry at First Pentecostal Church in Baton Rouge. I am blessed to have them as friends.●

## TRIBUTE TO STEVEN FIORE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Steven Fiore of Atkinson as October's Granite Stater of the Month. This Halloween, 17-year-old Steven set up an elaborate haunted house to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of his late grandmother.

A Halloween enthusiast from a young age, Steven has collected various Halloween props, from fog machines to animated creatures, over the years. His grandmother, who he was close with, was one of the main contributors to the collection and would gift him props for Christmas.

After Steven's grandmother passed away from Alzheimer's in 2021, he decided to honor her memory by bringing his passion project to life. Utilizing his props and decorations, Steven set up a hair-raising haunted house for the weekends of October 21 and 28, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association.

I especially admire Steven's creativity and drive in setting up a haunted house that has also brought together the Atkinson community and am glad that more guests will experience the thrills of the haunted house. By taking a difficult situation—experiencing the loss of his grandmother—and turning it into a positive force for helping others, by raising money for the Alzheimer's Association, Steven exemplifies the Granite State spirit, and I am proud to recognize his efforts.●

## TRIBUTE TO DIANE PORTNOY

• Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today I recognize Ms. Diane Portnoy, a renowned educator, advocate, author, and CEO and founder of the Immigrant Learning Center in Malden, MA. As the Immigrant Learning Center celebrates its 30th anniversary, I am honored to acknowledge Ms. Portnoy's extraordinary work.

As the founder and CEO of the Immigrant Learning Center, a nonprofit organization located in Malden, MA, Ms. Portnoy has spent the last three decades supporting the educational goals of thousands of immigrants from more than 122 countries. Under Ms. Portnoy's leadership, the organization has worked to draw attention to the many plights that immigrants and refugees face and has helped to amplify their voices.

Ms. Portnoy's own personal experience as an immigrant inspired her to start the Immigrant Learning Center. She came to the United States as the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors and witnessed firsthand the many challenges immigrant families face when adjusting to life in the United States.

She began her career in education, receiving her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Boston University, followed by a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Cornell University. Since the founding of the Immigrant Learning Center, local and national groups have recognized Ms. Portnoy as both a leader and advocate for the many immigrants in Massachusetts. Her dedication, passion, and endless resolve has helped shape the Immigrant Learning Center into an organization that provides immigrants and refugees with scholastic resources, ensures that adults have access to free English language classes, disseminates educational information about immigration, and conducts essential research on the contributions of immigrants to the U.S. economy.

I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Portnoy for her tremendous achievements. She has touched many lives, and her work at the Immigrant Learning Center will continue to have a lasting impact on individuals across Massachusetts and beyond. So, on this 30th anniversary of the Immigrant Learning Center, we thank her for her service to her community, the Commonwealth, and the country.●